Pemberton Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

March, 1899.

To the Chairman and Members of the Pemberton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Twenty-fifth Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Urban District of Pemberton for the year ending December, 1898, comprising tabular statements of the sickness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages and localities; proceedings taken under the Sanitary Acts; the summary of this report for the Medical Officer for the County of Lancaster; a table of infectious diseases notified to me during the year; a table of the rainfall taken at the Council's waterworks outside the district area. The outcome of special and systematic inspection each quarter is also appended.

The births registered total 843, as compared with 893, 839, and 769 for the three preceding years, and 807, average for the ten previous years. The birth-rate is 38·75, as compared with 36·1 in the year before, the average for the ten years previous being 42·7. During the first half of the year 423, during the second half of the year 420. Of the total number 416 were males and 427 females. For the first half of the year 214 were males and 209 females, for the second half 202 and 218 respectively. Quarterly 122, 92, 99, and 103 males, and 91, 118, 116, and 102 females.

The deaths total 427 (228 males and 199 females), as compared with 381, 401, and 387 for the three preceding years. The average for the past ten years is 389. The death-rate for the year is 19·62, as compared with 18·7, 18·7, and 18·1, for the three previous years. Of the total number of deaths 207 were among children 2 years of age and under. The average death-rate for the ten preceding years is 20·4

The births exceed the deaths by 416.

The rate of infant deaths under one year to 1000 births is 187.

The rate of seven principal zymotics, 1·93 per 1,000, as compared with 3·6 and 2·3 for two years before. Phthisis rate, 0·87, Respiratory Diseases rate, 3·87.

No deaths were registered from Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Continued or Puerperal Fevers.

Diseases prevalent were Whooping-cough, and Enteric Fever chiefly, and a few cases of Scarlet Fever, Croup, Erysipelas, Diphtheria, and Typhus Fever. No schools were closed.

There has been no epidemic of Smallpox for twenty-four years, since then it was introduced into the district on two occasions, and promptly stamped out. The new Vaccination Act of 1898 will, I trust, work better than some people anticipate. Many of the present generation have seen little of smallpox in this locality, and don't care for the trouble of vaccination, but prefer it to appearing before the magistrates.

The district has been very free from Measles and Scarlet Fever, the former causing one and the latter two deaths; in all cases clothing and houses were fumigated. It is difficult to isolate in many cases, as parents have yet strong objection to children being removed. This is not so apparent in Enteric Fever, either due to the progress being slow and tedious, or possibly to the many recoveries in the hospital, which is made comfortable, and the patients removed as far as possible from the feeling of restraint. Twenty-two cases were treated during the year with no death. The average residence was 34½ days; most of them were sent in from Newtown.

The first case of fever notified died on July 26th; the ashpit behind the houses contained liquid, and the cellar drain was not satisfactory. Several cases were subsequently notified in the same locality, and afterwards removed to the hospital. At this property also, the drains and ashpit were found to be unsatisfactory, and there was a large cesspool near one of the back doors in the yard, which has since been filled up, the drains relaid, and the ashpit repaired. The yard has also been paved and flagged. I have often noticed that cesspits or tanks unfrequently emptied are a common nidus for this fever. Nothing could be traced to the milk or food supply. Later on, a few sickened in Soho Street and property adjacent, where a large population is congregated on a small area. The houses are very near from back to back, with closets and ashpits between. The yards are at the present time being paved.

Influenza caused two deaths—one in South Ward in January, and one in West Ward in August—the latter a spinal case, the former aged 77 years.

Whooping-cough lingered throughout the year; there were few cases of sickness in proportion to deaths.

Diphtheria caused two deaths, both under two years of age, in different localities. In one, the drainage was unsatisfactory discharging into an old covered ditch, but means have been adopted to remedy this defect by substituting a new sewer carried a distance of 2,000 yards, taking the sewage from 55 houses which must have previously found its into the brook. Erysipelas has occasionally shewn itself here. A new length of sewer (710 yards) has also been laid in East Ward to sewer houses previously draining into cesspools.

Diarrhœa caused fourteen deaths, giving a rate of 1·96. Eleven were returned from Goose Green and Newtown.

Phthisis caused nineteen deaths throughout the year (scattered over the district), as compared with seventeen, nineteen, and twenty for the three preceding years. Deaths registered as Tuberculosis average one per week, chiefly among young children, not directly traceable to milk or flesh of cows, though I should say there is nearly always one in a herd suffering from this disease, especially in sheds kept at a temperature above the ordinary. In my opinion, an upright ventilator should be placed in front of each cow, near its manger, and carried directly through the roof of the building.

Double the number died from Bronchitis and Pneumonia as in the previous year. The weather, for the most part, was cold, damp, and changeable, deaths occurring at the extremes of life.

The scavenging has been done satisfactory, and the sewers well flushed and cleansed as the outcome of special and systematic inspection. A great many leaky and defective ashpits have been repaired, and some unpaved yards and passages flagged and paved. Others remain to be done.

The water supply has been good and constant. There is little or no overcrowding in the district. Many new houses have been built, and a few old ones pulled down. Bakehouses, slaughterhouses, and cow-sheds have been frequently inspected. The carcases of two pigs and one cow were seized and destroyed by fire, as unfit for the food of man. There is very little pollution of the atmosphere from any process or trade carried on. Some property certified by me as in a condition dangerous to health, was attended to, the owners asking at the trial for a month in which to do the work.

The closet accommodation at the weaving shed at one of the mills was considered insufficient. It was seen by the Government Medical Inspector with the result that additional accommodation has been provided.

1st Quarter.

Several cases of poultry keeping in houses at Marsh Green, Newtown and Little Lane. Notices served for cessation and limewashing, complied with. Removal of animals kept near back door effected.

At Lamberhead Green, Newtown, Marsh Green, Worsley Mesnes and Goose Green, owners notified of leaky ashpits which were repaired. Others dilapidated, taken down and re-built or roofed over. Notices served.

Leakages from piggery, and accumulations of manure at Little Lane, dealt with.

Untrapped drains made good, and sewer gas escaping from open pipe attended to.

Notice served for repair of leaky eave gutter, causing dampness in bedrooms, walls and ceilings. Gutter re-lined with lead.

Cleaning and limewashing dirty houses obtained at Newtown and Marsh Green.

Separate yards and proper closet accommodation provided at Park Lane Colliery Company's houses, Goose Green, by taking down closets, and three houses in an insanitary condition.

Paving to gullies, Goose Green, and cleaning flooded cellar, Victoria Street.

2nd Quarter.

Abatement of smoke nuisance from mortar mill obtained after service of notice.

Owner communicated with *re* accumulation, in pond close to cottage door, of sewage matter and urine from piggery, Billinge Road. Foul smell given off; pond cleaned and filled up.

Disjointed and defective house drains taken up and relaid, and ventilator fixed, Soho Street, Goose Green, and Worsley Mesnes. New drain provided to urinal Park Lane, and stopped drains at different properties relieved and cleaned.

At Highfield, Newtown, and Rose Hill, cellars and parlours flooded owing to stoppage in drains and other causes; in each case cleaned and disinfected, and at Rose Hill cellar drained and flagged. Notices served.

Lodgement of sewage in passage, Turner's Yard; notice served and nuisance abated by paving round gullies.

Nuisances from leaky ashpits notified and remedied at Park Lane, Goose Green and Half-Way House. Dilapidated ashpits and closets razed and position altered, Thwaites' Delf and Lamberhead Green.

Notices served for dirty condition of cottages, Duke Street.

3rd Quarter.

Many stoppages and defects in house drains remedied, and brick drains at Rose Hill emptying into old sewer taken up, proper glazed pipes laid and connected to main sewer, also drain relaid Newtown.

Escapement of sewer gas into living kitchens through direct connection of slop pipes with drains, and gulley traps fixed under slop-sinks, rendered satisfactory. Rose Hill and Goose Green.

Paving to gullies notified, also piggery nuisance and property without rain water spouts at Lamberhead Green.

Cottage in dilapidated condition reported upon, and notice served for cleaning, repairing, plastering, floors and roofs. Kitt Green.

Notices served for overcrowding at Lamberhead Green and Marsh Green and houses requiring limewashing.

Nuisances in various parts of the district arising from leaky and dilapidated ashpits, requiring service of notices, and reconstructed or repaired as requested.

Flagging and paving dirty common backyards at Bridgewater Street and New Street carried out satisfactory. Notices served ashing of passages seen to.

Keeping hens in back kitchen and using stable for shippon not complying with regulations reported upon.

4th Quarter.

Insufficient closet accommodation at Worsley Mesnes Mill—notice served and twelve additional closets erected.

Abatement of nuisance effected from leaky ashpits at Newtown, Spring Bank, Lamberhead Green, and Worsley Mesnes.

Slaughter-house in foul condition, accumulation of manure, Little Lane, and piggery nuisance, Smethurst Lane, reported and dealt with.

Stables without drains in common yard, Newtown, and drains untrapped, Goose Green, new drains laid and old ones taken up and relaid properly trapped, minor stoppages to house drains relieved, and defective connection to soil pipe repaired.

Dwelling-houses requiring limewashing attended to; others with defective rainwater spouts and roofs raining in put in order on owners being communicated with—Little Lane, Kitt Green, and Half-way House.

Overcrowding dwelling-houses at Newtown—notices for abatement served and complied with. Pigeon keeping in kitchens, Sarginson Street, dealt with.

Insanitary common backyards flagged and paved—Alfred Street, Albert Street, Chapel Street, and Mooney's Yard. Notices served.

The Council's men cleaned and disinfected the house gulley traps throughout the district, and they have also removed a great many old chaff beds and mattrasses to the Sewage Farm, where they were destroyed.

Five hundred and forty house chimney flues have been swept by the Council's man. Several cautions for chimneys being on fire given, but no summonses taken out.

Legal proceedings taken in one case for non-abatement of nuisance from defective ashpits, and magistrates' order obtained for reconstruction.

Forty ashpits have been repaired, fifty-two privies, three waste water closets, and twenty-seven ashpits re-constructed, six closets and eight ashpits raised and roofed.

The ashpits emptied during the year number 4942, against 4352 in 1897.

During the year thirty-one houses have been fumigated, and infected bedding and clothing from a number of houses disinfected in the gas stove of the hospital. Disinfectants have been freely supplied and used.

Eighty-two new houses, three shops, one chapel, and one club premises, have been built during the year.

Rainfall recorded at the Council's Waterworks, at Billinge during the year ended December 31st, 1898.

	1898.	1897.
January	2·51	·99
February	2·36	2·54
March	1·08	9·75
April	2·20	2·78
May	3·64	1·75
June	2·56	4·48
July	·74	1·04
August	5·25	4·33
September	1·28	4·75
October	4·24	2·20
November	2·58	2·58
December	3·09	5·58
	31·53	35·77

The certificates of infectious diseases received during the year 1898, are classified as under :—

Month	Enteric Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Membraneous Croup.	Total.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	Central Ward.	Total.
January ..	7	1	3	4	—	—	—	15	3	7	—	3	2	15
February..	6	—	3	4	—	—	—	13	3	3	2	1	4	13
March ...	2	—	3	2	—	1	1	9	3	2	1	1	2	9
April .. .	2	—	4	5	—	—	—	11	1	4	2	4	—	11
May	1	—	2	2	2	—	—	7	—	2	—	2	3	7
June	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	1	3	—	4
July	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	5	1	1	—	2	1	5
August ..	4	—	5	6	—	—	1	16	3	—	—	8	5	16
September	8	1	1	1	—	—	—	11	7	—	1	2	1	11
October ...	11	—	—	2	—	—	1	14	6	1	—	3	4	14
November	4	—	3	1	—	—	—	8	2	1	1	3	1	8
December.	1	—	5	1	1	—	—	8	—	1	—	3	4	8
	49	2	31	31	3	2	3	121	29	22	8	35	27	121

	Enteric Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Membraneous Croup.	Total.
North Ward	18	1	5	4	—	1	—	29
South ,,	6	1	6	9	—	—	—	22
East ,,	5	—	1	1	—	1	—	8
West ,,	12	—	12	8	1	—	2	35
Cent'l ,,	8	—	7	9	2	—	1	27
	49	2	31	31	3	2	3	121

Estimated Population, 21,758.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. HARTLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.